CH-787   **1865-1950**
Shiloh Historic District
Shiloh
Private/Public

Shiloh Historic District is significant as a well-preserved example of a late 19th early 20th

century rural African American village that emerged in Charles County after the Civil War.

Modest residential, commercial and civic structures are located within the district. Shiloh was

established at the corners of at least four large farms, Elmwood, Wakefield, the Cooksey Farm

and Milton Hill. After the Civil War, a church and schoolhouse were erected in the community.

As the community grew it became increasingly self-sufficient including a barber shop, funeral

home and store, all of which remain standing in the village today.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.   CH-787

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1. Name of Property   (indicate preferred name)

historic	Shiloh Historic District
other	

2. Location

street and number	Shiloh Church Road	___	not for publication
city, town	Newburg	X	vicinity
county	Charles		

3. Owner of Property   (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Multiple owners				
street and number				telephone	
city, town		state	MD	zip code	

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	
city, town	La Plata	liber	folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
___ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
___ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
___ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
___ Other

6. Classification

Category
X district
___ building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership
X public
X private
___ both

Current Function
___ agriculture
X commerce/trade
___ defense
X domestic
___ education
___ funerary
___ government
___ health care
___ industry

___ landscape
X recreation/culture
___ religion
___ social
___ transportation
___ work in progress
___ unknown
___ vacant/not in use
___ other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
11	_____	buildings
6	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
17	_____	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

1

Condition

___	excellent	X	deteriorated
X	good	___	ruins
X	fair	___	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Shiloh Historic District is a rural African American Community located in southern Charles County on the east and west side of Shiloh Church Road. The district includes a number of modest residential, commercial and civic buildings clustered around Shiloh Community Methodist Church, as well as a number of historic sites associated with former structures. These structures form the nucleus of a wider rural African American Community associated with Shiloh. Shiloh Church Road is a narrow, winding rural lane that connects MD 257, Rock Point Road to the south and Mount Victoria Road to the north. At the southern terminus is the small crossroads village of Wayside where the road continues westward as Morgantown Road to the former 19th century steamboat landing at Morgantown.

With the exception of the church which is constructed of concrete block and brick, the village includes one and two-story frame buildings reflecting vernacular, late- Victorian, Colonial Revival and Bungalow inspired architectural influences. The lots are of irregular sizes and shapes. Setbacks vary although generally, commerical buildings are located directly on the side of the road while residential buildings are set back from the roadside depending on lot size.

(4) 1965 CHURCH & ANNEX
The Shiloh Community United Methodist Church (CH-365) anchors the village and stands at one of the highest elevations along Shiloh Church Road. Located on the east side of the road, the church consists of a a contemporary structure built on or near the site of the former 1880's church and rectory and schoolhouse.
The current church consists of a concrete block and brick structure built by James A. Wood & Son, Brandywine, MD. These concrete block annex stands to the north of the church site on the former 1904 annex site. It is connected to the church by a breezeway.

(4A) 1904 RECTORY (SITE)
This is believed to have been a prominent Gothic Revival addition extending from the north elevation. This wing had center gable ornamenting the front elevation.

(4B) circa 1895 PARSONAGE (SITE)
The parsonage was built during the tenure of Rev. R.H. Alexander (1891-1896) and was destroyed by fire in 1956. The parsonage stood behind the church in an area that is currently wooded. A road led behind the property to an area identified in a 1909 plat of Elmwood as a camp ground, presumably used for religious camp meetings. This is a different site from the current cemetery to the north, also used as a religious campground according to oral tradition.

(4C) circa 1885 CHURCH (SITE)
According to photographs, the church was typical of rural vernacular chapels built throughout Charles County at the turn of the 20th century. Four bays long and three wide, the church had characteristic lancet windows. The belfry was added 1911-1913 consisting of a centered double-leaf doorway with a 3-part lancet-shaped transom and lancet windows above lighting the belltower. The bell is housed behind wood louvered vents and is sheltered by a pyramidal roof capped with a cross pinnacle. Stained glass windows and Delco lighting were installed in 1929-32. This church was demolished in 1956 to build the current structure. The bell was preserved and is housed in a separate structure near the former school site.

(4D) SHILOH SCHOOL (SITE)
The Shiloh Schoolhouse was a two-room frame structure. Aside from two classrooms the building included a foyer/cloakroom and small kitchen. The structure was built in 1878 when John T. Dutton deeded one acre to the County school board. The building was in use until 1951 after which it was used as a recreation center and dining room. This building was destroyed by fire in 1964.

(3) TOLSON HOUSE

Name   Shiloh Historic District
Continuation Sheet

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The Tolson House stands on the church property (part of CH-365) and consists of a two-story foursquare dwelling with a hipped roof and full width front porch. The building is said to have been built by George Henry Shade, a local carpenter for $2000.00.

(5) RUTH HAWKINS HOUSE and (6) STORE

Ruth Hawkins Store is a one-story gable roof frame structure with a shed-roof porch extending the length of the façade. The building stands approximately fifteen feet north of Shiloh Church Road. Behind the store is the former home of Ruth Hawkins, now ruinous. The dwelling is a one story side gable frame structure.

(2) BEN BROWN STORE and BARBER SHOP/ (1) BEN BROWN FARM

The Ben Brown Store and barber shop is a small one-story front-gable structure standing directly on the north side of Shiloh Church Road. A one-story shed roof extends from the east wall. The building is heated by a single interior brick flue that pierces the metal seam roof. North of the store is the Ben Brown Farm anchored by a 1 1/2 story frame bungalow with a large centered shed-roof dormer and a full-width porch. The site includes at least two barns sheathed in vertical board siding.

(8) BUTLER/SHADES COTTAGE

This is a small single-pile frame side gable strucutre located near the current church. The building has been extensively damaged by fire.

(10) SHADES FAMILY HOME

This is a bunglaow standing on the west side of Shiloh Church Road.

(9) SHADES FUNERAL HOME

On the south side of Shiloh Church Road are the Shades Funeral Home, a shotgun-style frame structure with a centered doorway and window on the gable end and two windows on each of the eave walls. The building has a metal roof.

(a) ST. LUKE'S HALL (SITE)

This was a two story hall which was used for classes as well. The Elk's Lodge first organized here. The building stood approximately 25 feet from the road.

(7) MARTHA PRYOR HOUSE (RUINOUS)

This was the mother of Ruth Hawkins.

c) HELPMATE SOCIETY HALL (SITE)

This was a one-story building that also houses the Corbin and Shades funeral parlor.

(d) PERCY MIDDLETON HOUSE (SITE)

(E) LEANNA AND WILLIAM HEMSLEY (SITE)

(F) IRENE SLY HOUSE (SITE)

(G) SARAH GREEN HOUSE (SITE)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
___ 1600-1699	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ health/medicine	___ performing arts
___ 1700-1799	___ archeology	___ education	___ industry	___ philospohy
_X_ 1800-1899	_X_ architecture	___ engineering	___ invention	___ politics/government
_X_ 1900-1999	___ art	___ entertainment/	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 2000-	___ commerce	recreation	___ law	___ science
	___ communications	___ ethnic heritage	___ literature	___ social history
	___ community planning	___ exploration/	___ maritime industry	___ transportation
	___ conservation	settlement	___ military	___ other:

Specific dates	1870-1950	Architect/Builder	unknown
Construction dates			

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register	_____ Maryland Register	X not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Shiloh Historic District is significant as a well-preserved example of a late-19th, early-20th century African American community in rural Charles County. Shiloh was established at the intersection of at least four large farms: Elmwood, Poplar Hill, Ditchley and Milton Hill. The community was established in the 19th century by freedmen where a Methodist congregation had emerged during the Civil War.

As the community grew it became increasingly self-sufficient as more and more blacks acquirred property and built private homes as well as commerical and civic buildings. A number of these buildings have survived including a barber shop, funeral home and store. Although fewer homes have survived several remain standing including the Ben Brown House the Shades Family Home, and the Tolson House.

The first African American congregations were formed around the end of the Civil War such as Shiloh near Newburg, Jordan Chapel, later renamed Alexander or Alexandria at Chicamuxen, and Price's Chapel, later renamed MetropolitanChurch . Around the 1880's the churches became affiliated with the Washington Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Charles Circuit. Until the 1890's they shared many early preachers including Rev. Charles Daniel Wheeler, R.H. Alexander.

Shiloh was established during the Civil War, when in 1863, local African-Americans organized a congregation. For the first years, church services were held in private homes. Local white citizens are said to have given a church building to the congregation. The church quickly became a center for marriages, and served as a public school taught by volunteer teachers. It is believed that this original church site stood near the current Shiloh Church cemetery, (CH-364), which stands to the north of the current church site. According to oral tradition, camp meetings were also held at this site. Ministers associated with the church at this time were Rev. Wainwright who was replaced with the first black pastor, Rev. William H. Dyson.

Meanwhile, the small community of Shiloh continued to grow. In 1878, the John T. Josephine A. Dutton deeded one acre from part of Poppleton Hill for the construction of a schoolhouse. The building consisted of two classrooms, an entrance hall or cloakroom, and a small kitchen. ld one acre near the colored school as a place of divine worship ... for the Methodist Episcopal Church. 1890, Perrylee Matthews, who served for a time as minister at Shiloh, purchased 3/4 acres from John T. Dutton which adjoins the Shiloh Church property on the south side, the land of P.A.L. Contee on the west, the land of John T. Dutton on the north, and the county road on the east. By 1901, Perrylee Matthews was deceased and the property and buildings were conveyed to Ruth C. Tolson.

The first published reference to the community is found in July 1874 when the Young Men's Mental Improvement Association of Charles County held it's first annual Fourth of July celebration was held at nearby Wingate's Grove, near Shiloh M.E. Church, a religious campground in the vicinity. The Shiloh Chorus sang at the event. The speaker was Moses Aaron Hopkins, a former slave

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who enlisted in the United States Colored Troops. After the Civil War, Hopkins graduated from Lincoln University in 1874, before beginning his seminary studies. Ordained as an evangelist in 1877 at Baltimore, Hopkins went on to become an influential religious leader in North Carolina. In 1885 he was appointed United States minister and consul-general to Liberia.

The town first appears on a plat of Elmwood dated 1909, followed by a USGS map of 1911. Several roads once connected the village including the extension of Mary Barnes Place northward along Ditchley Prong and then turning westward to connect near the church property.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property   unknown

Acreage of historical setting   unknown

Quadrangle name   Colonial Beach North   Quadrangle scale   1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Shiloh Historic District is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 80 Parcels 20, 39, 51, 52, 53, 59, 26 and Map 83,   Parcel 22.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor
organization	Charles County Planning dat 12/10/2003
street and number	200 Baltimore Street telephone 301-396-5815
city or town	La Plata stat MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET   Inventory No. <u>CH-787</u>
Section <u>9</u>   Page <u>1</u>   <u>Shiloh Historic District</u>
                                                         name of property
                                                         <u>Charles County, MD</u>
                                                         county and state

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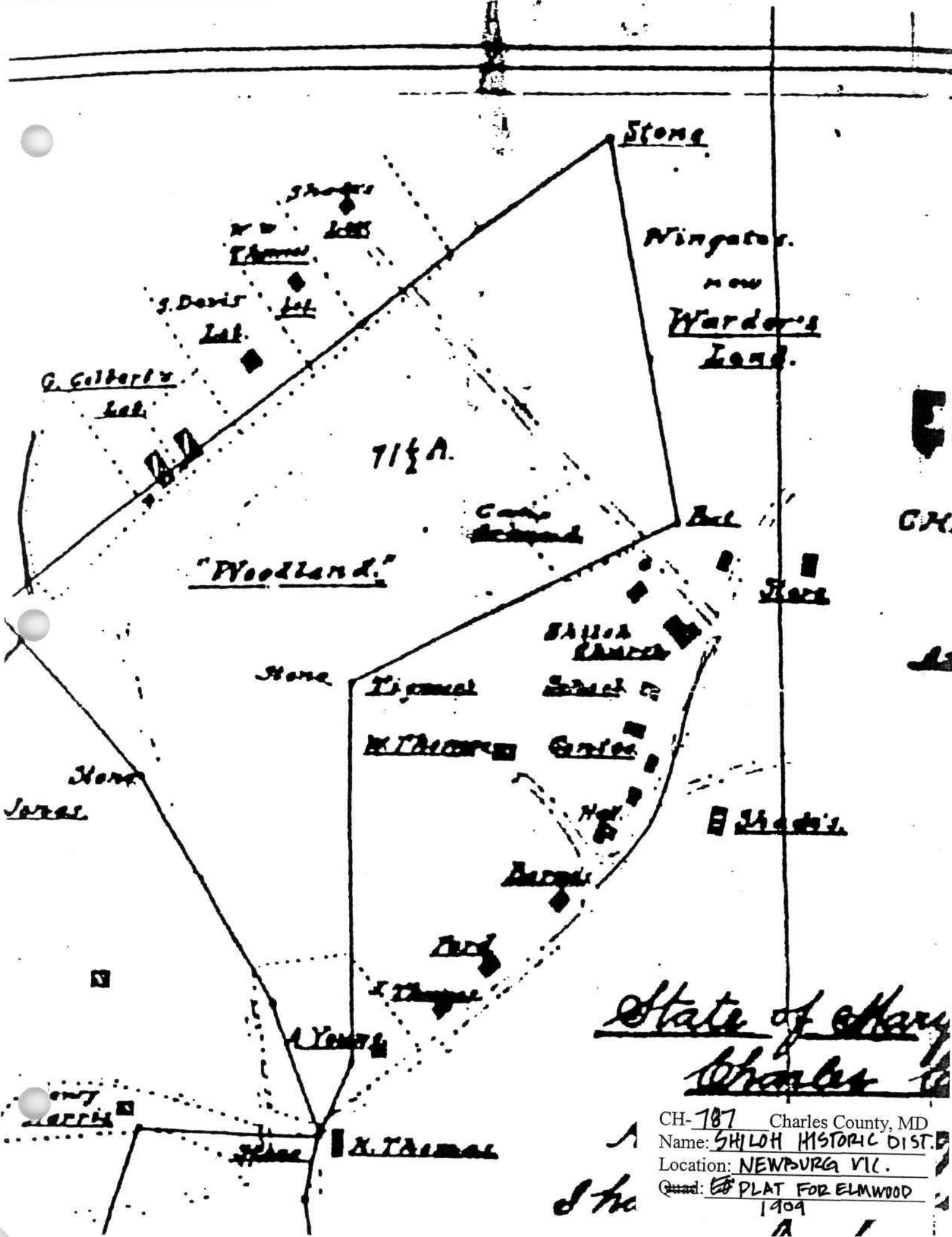   Transportation Study.* August 1996.

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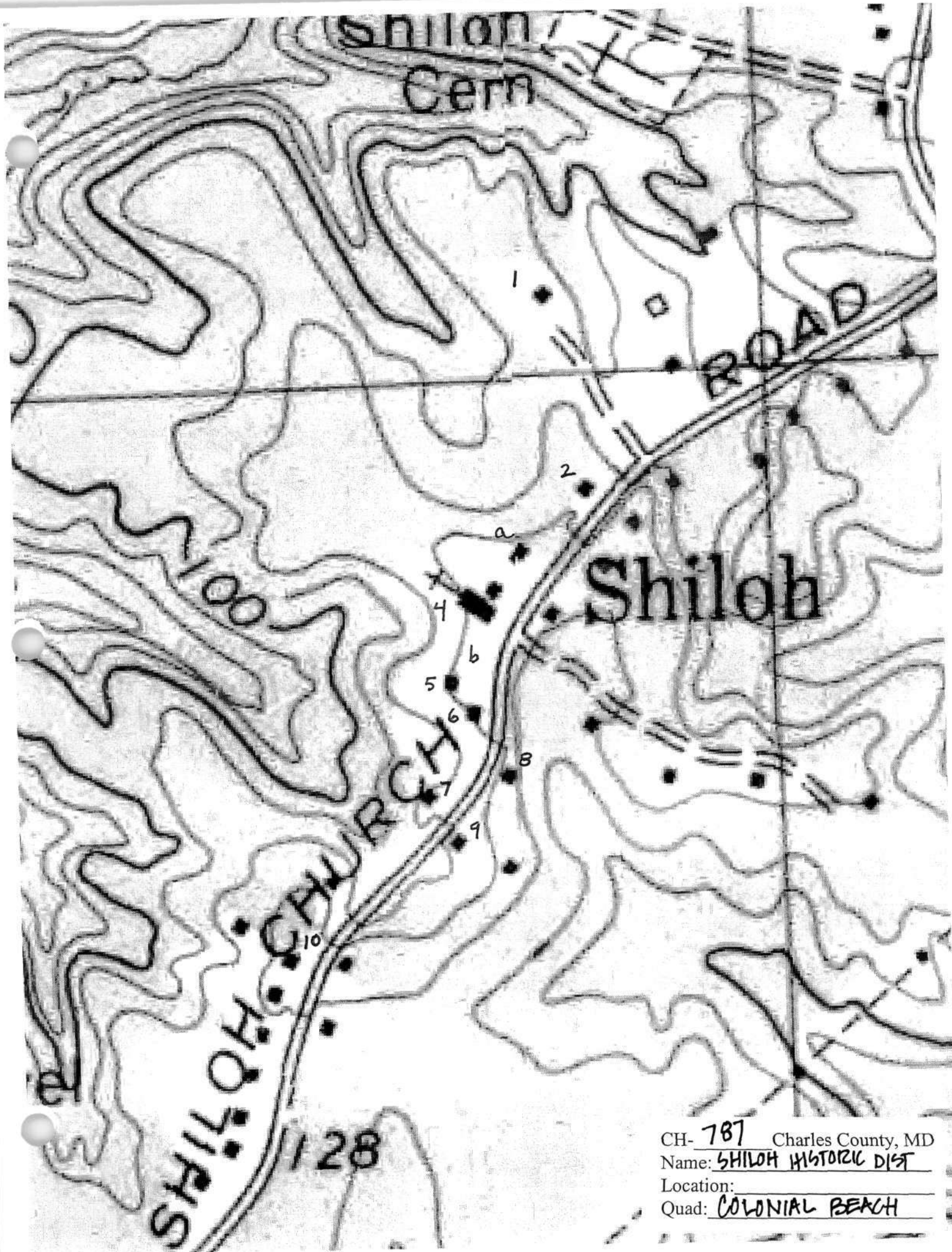   University of North Carolina. Chapel Hill. 1998.

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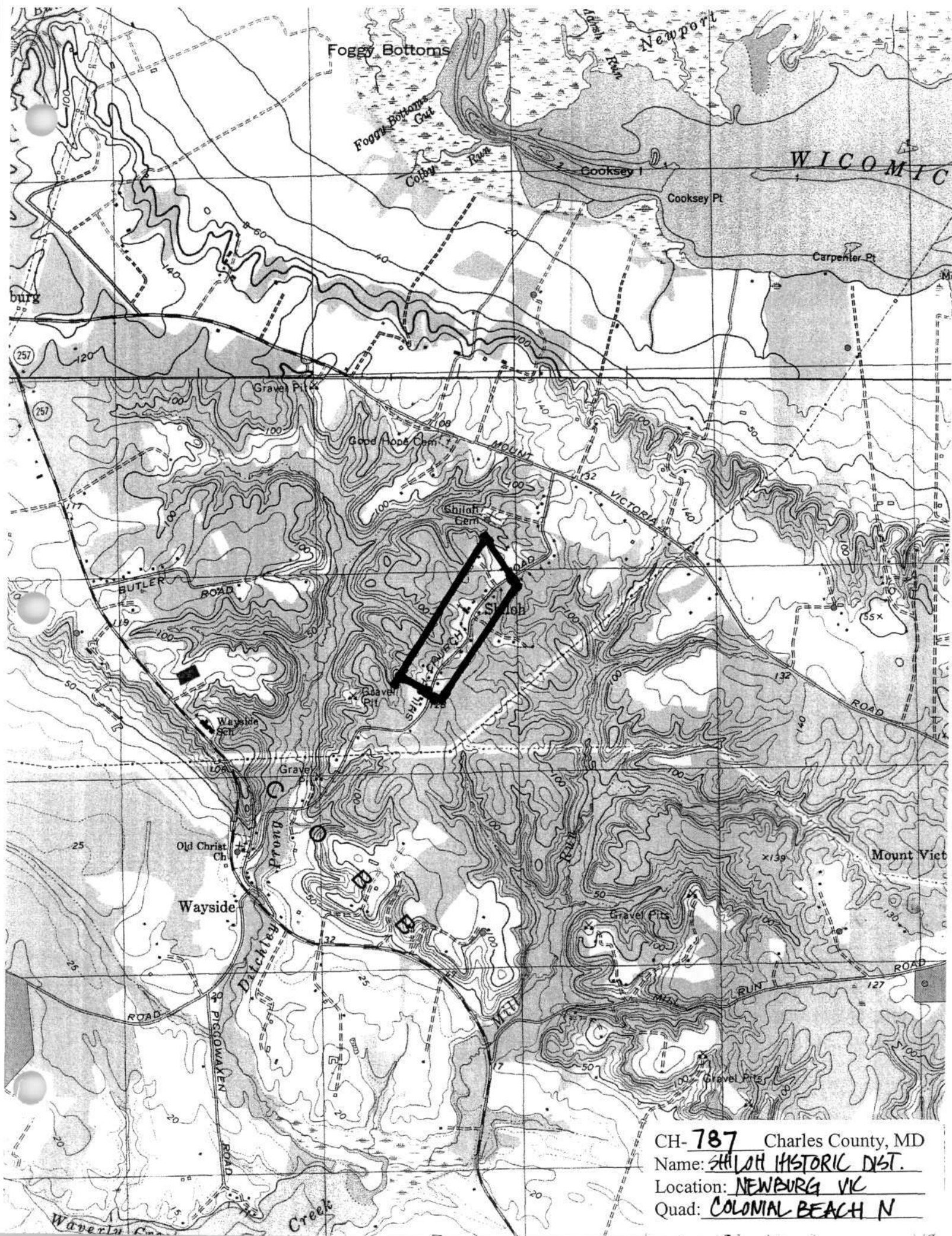   Simon J. Martenet, C.E., 1865; revised 1885.

Stone

Wingate.
now
Warder's
Land.

Shorp's
w w Lott
Thomas

g. Davis
Lot.

Lot.

G. Gilbert's
Lot.

7/8 A.

C. H.

Bell

Store

"Woodland."

Shiloh
Church

None

School &

Thomas

N.Thomas   Grave

Shade's

None
Jones

Hy

Harri's

Bury

Sch.

J. Chapel

J Young

CH-787   Charles County, MD
Name: SHILOH HISTORIC DIST.
Location: NEWBURG VIC.
Quad: PLAT FOR ELMWOOD
1909

Stone   N. Thomas

Shilon
Cem

ROAD

1

2

a

Shiloh

4

b

5

6

7 8

9

SHILOH CHURCH

10

128

CH-**787** Charles County, MD
Name: SHILOH HISTORIC DIST.
Location: NEWBURG VIC
Quad: COLONIAL BEACH N

CH-787
SHILOH HISTORIC DISTRICT
NEWBURG VIC
C. HARDY   9/2003
MD SHPO
RUTH HAWKINS STORE   LOOKING N (9)

1 OF 7

CH-787
SHILOH HISTORIC DISTRICT
NEWBURG VIC.
C. HARDY
9/2003
MD SHPO
CHURCH ? TOLSON HOUSE, LOOKING N (B)

2 OF 7

CA-787
SHILOH HISTORIC DISTRICT
NEWBURG VIC.
C. HARDY
9/2003
MD SHPO
BEN BROWN STORE/ BARBER SHOP (4)
3 OF 7

CH 787
SHILOH HISTORIC DISTRICT
NEWBURG, MD
C. HARDY
9/2003
MD SHPO
BEN BROWN FARM, LOOKING NW (3)

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CH-787
SHILOH HISTORIC DISTRICT
NEWBURG VIC.
C. HARDY
MD SHPO
9/2003
BEN BROWN FARM BARN
5 of 7

CH-787
SHILOH HISTORIC DISTRICT
NEWBURG VIL.
C. HARDY
9/2003
MO SHPO
SHADES FUNERAL HOME (17)

6 OF 7

CH 787
SHILOH HISTORIC DISTRICT
NEWBURG VIC
G. HARDY
9/2003
MID SHPO
DWELLING (16)

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